

Appl.No. 10/016/053  
Amdt. Dated Aug. 26, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17(currently amended): A portable flange for temporarily connecting an exhaust fan for exhausting gases from a tank and circulating fresh air to a normally closed manway to a said tank while workers are temporarily working in said tank which enables the extension of worker's hoses and electrical wires from the exterior of said manway through said manway having said exhaust fan attached thereto into said tank, said flange comprising:

a. a top plate for temporarily connecting said flange to said exhaust fan, said top plate having a generally circular opening in the center thereof,

b. a bottom plate for temporarily connecting said flange to said manway, said bottom plate having a generally circular opening in the center thereof, and

c. a hollow sleeve having a cylindrical wall terminating in two generally circular ends, one of said two ends being connected to said bottom plate at the periphery of said opening in said bottom plate, and the other of said two ends being connected to said top plate at the periphery of said opening in said top plate, said sleeve having at least one unobstructed opening in said wall between said exhaust fan and said tank for temporary receipt of said hoses and electrical wires

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extending from the exterior of said manway having said exhaust fan attached thereto into said tank, wherein said top plate is parallel to said bottom plate, and said wall of said sleeve is perpendicular to said bottom plate and said top plate.

18 (previously presented): The flange of claim 17 wherein said top plate has a plurality of openings therein for receipt of a fastener.

19 (previously presented): The flange of claim 18 wherein said bottom plate has a plurality of openings therein for receipt of a fastener.

20 (previously presented): The flange of claim 19 wherein said fastener is a bolt.